

Dear CMTHS Community,

By now you have likely heard about the horrific tragedy in Uvdale, Texas yesterday, in which 19 elementary students and 2 teachers were killed by a gunman, who is also deceased. This shooting has shaken our nation and our hearts are heavy.

We are extremely sensitive to the stress, anxiety, and fear that this incident will cause for many in our school community. Our counselors are prepared to speak to any students and staff who would like some support in coping with the aftermath of this tragedy.

In the wake of the tragic rash of school shootings across the nation during the last 15 years, CMTHS has worked diligently to improve safety and security in our schools such as:

- securing our main entrance vestibule for no entry into the building without proper identification,
- installing extra security cameras on the outside of the building
- ensuring that classroom doors are locked
- providing extra security personnel
- providing all staff with a walkie for instant communication
- limiting hallway and public area student access
- providing staff at all main student entrance/exit locations
- providing consistent staff intruder training

Ultimately, the words “school shooting” should not be part of our vocabulary. We want all our students to feel safe and secure in our schools and we want parents to feel confident in sending their children to our buildings. We will do all we can to ensure that happens.

We have also dedicated increasing resources to improving student mental and emotional health. We will continue to focus on this important issue.

If you would like some support in talking with your children about this incident, the following are some resources you might consider:

<https://www.apa.org/topics/gun-violence-crime/shooting-aftermath>

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-safety-and-crisis/school-violence-resources/talking-to-children-about-violence-tips-for-parents-and-teachers>

<https://childmind.org/article/helping-children-cope-frightening-news/>

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at 610-277-2301 or by email at aking@cmths.org

Sincerely,

Dr. Angela King, Executive Director